

**Lamoine Conservation Commission
Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605
Minutes of the Meeting of October 8, 2008**

The meeting started at 7:08 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Fred Stocking (chair), Carol Korty, Lynda Tadema-Wielandt, Nancy Pochan (acting as alternate), David Schick (secretary)

Others present: Ken Smith, Annie Crisafulli (alternate), Kathy De Fusco, Willem & Lieve Brutsaert

Agenda Items:

- 1) Review of minutes of the August meeting: David Schick submitted the minutes of the August meeting for review. They were accepted with a unanimous vote.
- 2) Review of Stargazing event at Lamoine Beach: Everyone felt that the event was a success and well worth the effort. Even though clouds prevented any significant viewing of stars the night of the 20th, the follow up event on the 27th was attended by ten people and the program was completed successfully. Carol Korty noted that several attendees commented that they appreciated a fun public event originating from the Commission. Nancy Pochan suggested that the Commission make stargazing an annual event. Several logistical problems were noted. One was the absence of red flashlights at the second meeting. Another was the need to coordinate with Bangor Hydro to have the local streetlight extinguished for the evening, and the presence of other light sources. Could Marlboro Beach be an alternate location for the event? Fred Stocking will send a Certificate of Appreciation, and Lynda Tadema-Wielandt prepared a letter of thanks to Linda Penkalski for conducting the program.
- 3) Recycling Discussion with Bill Fennelly: Bill Fennelly was unable to attend the meeting. Fred Stocking will reschedule.
- 4) Fresh Water Initiative Update: The check arrived from the GET WET grant and an evaluation of the program will come due at the end of the year. There is work in progress to expand the program to serve all the New England states utilizing a \$ 500,000 USDA grant. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt suggested that it might be appropriate to have someone involved with the program give a presentation to the Hancock selectmen or conservation commission. Participation in the program could be used to satisfy the lab science requirement for their school curriculum. It was noted that Hancock currently addresses the requirement in other ways. Fred Stocking questioned whether the data from each year's program could be integrated into a data stream from previous programs. He noted that currently there is no ongoing analysis beyond what is done in each year's program.
- 5) Planning Board and Selectfolk concerns: None. There was however, a request from the Town Office asking that the Commission remove and store any materials currently stored in the meeting room in order to facilitate the installation of the new floor. It was agreed that any members who were available would meet at 4:00 PM on the 15th to do that. Nancy Pochan suggested that the town should develop a new map display. There ensued a general discussion regarding format, but we

agreed that having maps available in the public space was valuable. Fred Stocking will discuss the matter with Stu Marckoon.

- 6) Listening to the concerns of those attending: Willem Brutsaert requested the Commission to consider the proposition that water, and water access, should be considered a basic human right, and that water should not be considered a commodity. He noted that this idea is gaining political credence in many parts of the world. Willem also stated that much of his thinking in this area was informed through reading the book, Blue Covenant, by Maude Barlow. He suggested that members of the Commission might use it as a starting point for further consideration. A general discussion followed which highlighted a number of items and issues. There is some activity in this area within the state legislature. Sustainable withdrawal rates need to be a guideline for any regulatory activity. Water utilities will probably require different regulatory consideration than for-profit corporations. As a community we need to have a discussion regarding who has access and who has jurisdiction over the aquifer, and what roles the town can and should take in protecting the aquifer. It was agreed that we should do more research in this area and that various individuals would hunt for sources for copies of Blue Covenant. Nancy Pochan suggested that if, after consideration, the Commission is in agreement, that it should promulgate a resolution to state that water is a basic human right and not a commodity.

Ken Smith related that he had been reviewing several other towns' open space plans and that they varied widely. He wondered if Lamoine's open space plan, when completed, should be an adjunct of the comprehensive plan. He felt that the Lamoine comprehensive plan could use revision. In discussion the group noted that the original comprehensive plan was done primarily by volunteers and was not too detailed, but that to take on a revision would be, under current state standards, very technical and expensive.

Don Bamman passed on a suggestion, through Fred Stocking, for the recycling committee. He wondered if the town could provide a heavy-duty paper-shredding machine for public use at the transfer station. Annie Crissafulli offered to research the availability of machines in liquidated stock inventories.

- 7) Open Space Inventory: Fred Stocking presented, for consideration, a spreadsheet, which could be used for the collation of data appropriate for the open space inventory. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt also presented a table of exempt lands in Lamoine. Fred Stocking noted that data relating to the open space inventory could be recorded in, roughly, three levels of detail. The lowest level of effort would involve recording data we could establish from town records. The next level of effort would involve collecting available state and conservation data as it relates to the inventory. A higher level of effort might involve collecting data as it would relate to a specific project-level effort. This would require further research into any specific categories appropriate to the project goals. A general discussion followed which dealt with the relationship of easement categories to public access rights, and the need to include property value assessments as part of the inventory's data collection schema.
- 8) Fall/Winter Planning: There was consensus that the group was in an autumnal low energy ebb with many other local projects also in motion. It was noted that the Maine carbon trading initiative was in progress, and that that effort might relate to any "carbon footprint" presentation that the Commission might undertake in the future. Generally, we felt that the Commission had enough business in process to obviate the need of further long term planning at the present time.
- 9) Budget Policy discussion: This item was not addressed at the meeting.

10) The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Schick
Secretary
Lamoine Conservation Commission